

# No: Amendment would endanger basic rights and undermine local control

By Julie Cooper

A group calling itself Colorado for Family Values is attempting to change the way we do things in this state that has long prided itself in geographic, racial, ethnic and religious diversity.

This group doesn't trust the voters to decide on certain issues in their own communities. What's more, they intend to repeal local decisions made in communities other than their own in cases where they disagree. This is a group that seeks to legislate their own views of morality.

To that end, CFV activists have been running around this city and this state, collecting signatures on petitions and driving them to Denver in an armored truck, gaining support for their initiative through a campaign of fear and deception.

The language of the amendment itself confuses with inaccurate words and long emotion-provoking phrases in order to disguise both the intent and the effect of the law.

Don't be duped.

They say this is not a hate campaign. Yet CFV employs scare tactics and hate mongering in inflammatory literature and fundraising letters from former Sen. Bill Armstrong claiming

## Points against:

- Amendment legislates religious morality.
- It would deny homosexuals protection against discrimination in housing, employment and public access.
- Erosion of gay rights threatens rights of all citizens.
- Amendment would undermine local control by repealing existing ordinances in three Colorado cities.

"gays pose a grave threat" to Colorado.

They say this is not a religious campaign. Yet CFV board member Bill McCartney publicly condemns homosexuality as an "abomination of God" and says that homosexuals do not deserve the same rights as those who procreate.

They say they have nothing against gays and lesbians and think they should have the same rights as others. Yet they seek to overturn existing gay rights ordinances in Denver, Boulder and Aspen that, far from granting special rights, merely prohibit discrimination in housing, public access and

employment.

"No special rights" is a slick campaign slogan and represents yet another attempt to incite and mislead and scare the electorate into voting their way in November. There is nothing special about the right to public access, to protection from being fired because of the class of people to whom you belong rather than how you perform on the job, or the right to protection from being evicted as the result of discrimination.

Amendment 2, if enacted in November, would deny gay and lesbian citizens legal protection from discrimination. It would mean that in the state of Colorado, an employee of good standing could be legally fired from his or her job for no other reason than the employer learned that he or she was a homosexual. It would also mean that in the state of Colorado, a tenant of good standing could be thrown out of an apartment for no other reason than the fact the he or she was or was perceived to be gay.

It is my belief that to take away any human group's civil rights is to lower the status of an entire society. Suddenly, the civil rights of all our citizens

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are in jeopardy as the door has been opened to a dangerous erosion of all of our rights and personal freedoms.

CFV's proposal for legalized discrimination and denial of our vote in local government, based on intolerance and promoted through fear and deception is an embarrassment to the proud traditions Coloradans have held sacred, and a threat to the way of life we cherish.

In November, say "No" to those who would create in our state an atmosphere of intolerance and shame us with the distinction of being the first state in the country to write discrimi-

nation of any kind into its Constitution.

Say "No" to this affront to the rights of voters who have already decided whether or not to protect civil rights for gays and lesbians in their own communities.

Say "No" to CFV's attempt to push their belief system on the state of Colorado.

Vote "No" on Amendment 2.

Cooper, a resident of Colorado Springs, is state co-chair of the Equal Protection Campaign, an organization formed to oppose Amendment 2.

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5/24/92

He points to organizations like the Judson Center in Royal Oak, Mich., which won the first annual Drucker Award for Non-profit Innovation in November for its program to train welfare recipients to become foster parents of institutionalized, disabled children. The foster parents received a salary and left the welfare rolls, and many of the children showed dramatic improvement with the personal care.

President Bush also highlighted his faith in the third sector's value by creating a separate White House office to spur volunteerism. Known as the Thousand Points of Light program, the office dispenses "Daily Point of Light" awards to charitable organizations making a difference in their communities.

The president, however, was challenged by Drucker in a recent article he wrote for The Wall Street Journal to put some money behind that faith.

For every dollar given to charitable groups, Drucker wrote, contributors should be able to take a tax deduction of \$1.10 because that would encourage more donations and society would get even more benefits from organizations

Phony churches, "diploma mill" schools and various other tax-evasion schemes employing tax-exempt organizations have been part of the landscape for years.

"Compared to the rest of society, it seems to me that abuse is at a bare, bare minimum in the non-profit sector," said Mark Rosenman, Washington director of the Union Institute Center for Public Policy, a non-profit research group in the capital.

But other experts are convinced that at least a part of the third sector's growth is attributable to fraud — unsupported administrative costs, unusually high salaries or other personal benefits, and deceptive sales pitches.

More prevalent than fraud and perhaps more dangerous to the image and future of legitimate non-profit groups, said these and other experts, is the trend among big tax-exempt entities toward offering services and products ordinarily sold by taxable businesses.

Exempt organizations are supposed to pay income tax on earnings that are not substantially related to their tax-ex-

empt status. In the case of gun-pointing system it was in World War II.

**DR. ARTHUR VOORHEES**, who developed and implanted the first artificial arteries in humans, died Tuesday in Albuquerque, N.M., after a long battle with brain cancer. He was 70.

Voorhees was an intern in 1947 when he noticed during a post-mortem examination that a silk suture left inside a laboratory animal had become overgrown with surrounding tissue.

"It was a fragile structure, but its appearance was sufficiently startling to make me wonder if a piece of cloth might react in a similar way," a surgical text quotes Voorhees as saying.

"From there I speculated that a cloth tube, acting as a latticework of threads, might indeed serve as an arterial prosthesis."

He made his first artificial artery from a silk handkerchief and later used a synthetic parachute fabric, said his son, Jefferson Voorhees.

**LAWRENCE WELK**, the

author of her new book, "All Around Town" from 2 to 4 p.m. May 31 at McKinze-White Booksellers, 8005 N. Academy Blvd. Clark also will read from and sign copies of her book from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. June 2 at the Tattered Cover Book Store, 2955 E. First Ave., Denver.

Other upcoming Tattered Cover events: Humorist and political commentator **P.J. O'Rourke** will talk about and

"Give War A Chance: Eyewitness Accounts of Mankind's Struggle Against Tyranny, Injustice, and Alcohol-Free Beer," from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday. Numbers for a place in line will be handed out beginning at 6:30 p.m. **Timothy Rizzi** will sign copies of his debut novel, "**Nightstalker**," from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday. Esalen Institute founder **Michael Murphy** will talk about and sign copies of his book, "**The Future**

Education is offering a class on writing action and adventure novels. The class will be taught by Colorado Springs author **M.E. Morris**, whose novels include "The Last Kamikaze." The class will meet June 3-July 15. The cost is \$125, with a 50 percent discount for senior citizens and a \$30 discount for UCCS Writing Certificate program participants. Call 593-9191 for information.

## BEST SELLERS

Here are the best sellers for the week of May 22, compiled from data from independent and chain bookstores, book wholesalers and independent distributors nationwide.

### HARDCOVER

#### FICTION

1. **Jewels.** Danielle Steel. Delacorte, \$23
2. **The Pelican Brief.** John Grisham. Doubleday, \$22.50
3. **All Around the Town.** Mary Higgins Clark. Simon & Schuster, \$22
4. **Sahara.** Clive Cussler. Simon & Schuster, \$23
5. **"I" Is for Innocent.** Sue Grafton. Henry Holt, \$18.95
6. **French Silk.** Sandra Brown. Warner, \$18.95
7. **Jazz.** Toni Morrison. Knopf, \$21
8. **Turtle Moon.** Alice Hoffman. Putnam, \$21.95
9. **For Love Alone.** Ivana Trump. Pocket Books, \$22

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